Environmental Justice in Public Land Management

National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration and Management

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION
What is the State Lands Commission?

What We Do

- Issue leases for use and occupation of tidelands and submerged lands, filled and unfilled, and the resources contained therein
- Oversee the management of granted lands
- Manage school lands to generate money for retired State teachers
- Oil spill prevention
- Prevent marine invasive species introduction into state waters
Land and Resource Manager

Fiduciary Trust

Public Trust Doctrine

School Lands Trust

Lands

Resources

Leasing, Acquisition & Exchange

Energy Production & Hazard Mitigation

Energy Production & Hazard Mitigation

* Oil Spill Prevention

* Marine Invasive Species

Granted Lands

Lands

Resources

Leasing, Acquisition & Exchange
Public Trust Doctrine

Protecting tidelands, submerged lands, and navigable waterways for the benefit of the People of California
Public Trust
General Guidelines

• Water-dependent or water-related

• Promote or support uses authorized by the common law Public Trust Doctrine

• Accommodate or enhance the statewide public’s enjoyment or benefit from Trust lands
Programs

Energy and Mineral Resources

Oil Spill Prevention

Marine Invasive Species Program
Environmental Justice Policy

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS
COMMISSION
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The Commission envisions a future in which environmental justice communities are no longer disproportionately impacted by pollution or environmental hazards, and all Californians can access and enjoy our beautiful public lands and natural resources. The purpose of this Environmental Justice Policy is to advance that vision. The Commission commits to promoting equity and advancing environmental justice through more inclusive decision-making that considers the disproportionate burdens on disadvantaged communities and Native Nations. It also commits to applying this Environmental Justice Policy to all its operations, programs, and policies.

The Commission recognizes the critical connection California’s Native Nations have to the environment and acknowledges that the injustices they have endured over generations, including the destruction of natural resources that sustained their communities and systematic displacement from their lands, give tribal communities a unique perspective on environmental justice concerns. California’s Native Nations experience many of the same environmental injustices as other vulnerable communities, such as polluted air, water, and soil. They also experience unique impacts, such as lost access to sacred resources or locations and lost opportunities to gather or grow food, hunt, and fish, or practice traditional medicine. Climate change and sea-level rise will expose, erode, or submerge tribal burial sites, cultural artifacts, and sacred resources, and further decrease opportunities to gather or grow food, hunt, fish, or practice traditional medicine. Incorporating tribally-identified metrics and narratives is a critical part of an environmental justice impact analysis. The Commission will use this policy together with its Tribal Consultation Policy to amplify tribal voices.

IMPLEMENTATION BLUEPRINT

I. PURPOSE STATEMENT

These strategies are meant to guide the Commission’s implementation of its Environmental Justice Policy and can be adapted to ensure the intent is achieved and meaningfully considered in all areas of the Commission’s work. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list, but rather to represent potential ways the Commission may advance its Environmental Justice Policy goals.

II. PROCEDURAL GOALS

GOAL 1.0: IDENTIFY AND ENGAGE WITH IMPACTED COMMUNITIES.

The Commission will work to identify marginalized and disadvantaged communities, including tribal and non-tribal communities, that live, work, and play near a proposed project or lease site as an initial step in the application process.

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL:

1.1. Reach out to environmental justice groups, impacted communities, Tribes and Native Nations when the Commission becomes aware of project proposals or receives a lease application, and collaborate with impacted groups throughout the review process.

1.2. Develop relationships with community-based organizations and seek their assistance in identifying marginalized and disadvantaged communities that live, work, and play near a proposed project.

1.3. Develop and sustain relationships with Native Nations to ensure tribal-specific environmental justice concerns are understood and honored.

1.4. Use CalEnviroScreen and other resources that assess where there are marginalized or disadvantaged communities in proximity to project and lease applications and policy decisions.

1.5. Continuously update and enhance contacts and relationships with local, regional, and statewide environmental justice advocates.
Key Policy Objectives

1. Promote Equity
2. Inform the public & tribes
3. Increase & encourage equitable public access
4. Increase Commission awareness
5. Analyze impacts & identify benefits
6. Reduce impacts & increase benefits
7. Honor tribes’ ancestral homelands
8. Build trust & form relationships
9. Support cleaner industry
10. Increase public participation
11. Advance Social Resiliency and Climate Equity
12. Accountability
Culture Shift

Individual

Management

Commission
Surface Leasing: Recreational Uses
Surface Leasing: Commercial and Industrial
Surface Leasing: Ecological Preservation and Open Space
Granted Lands
Regional Perspectives
Northern California

- Recreational Use leases
  - Piers, docks, marinas ( Majority in El Dorado and Placer Counties)
- Commercial leases
  - Napa, Petaluma, El Dorado, & Placer Counties
- Right-of-way leases
  - Powerlines, natural gas and sewage pipelines
- Restoration leases
  - Salt River, Eel River, Smith River
Bay/Delta Region

- Recreational Use Leases
  - Docks, piers, buoys (Sacramento River Delta, Napa River, and Petaluma River)

- Commercial Leases
  - Marinas

- Industrial Leases
  - Marine Oil Terminals in the Carquinez Strait
Central Coast

• Recreational Use Leases
  – Harbors, docks, piers, buoys

• Remediation Projects
  – Remediating Legacy Wells (Becker Onshore Well, Summerland Beach)

• Industrial Leases
  – Oil and gas Production (Platform Holly, Santa Barbara County)
  – Power Plants (Diablo Canyon)
Southern California

- Recreational Use Leases
  - Harbors, docks, buoys, and piers throughout various coastal cities
- Industrial Leases
  - San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Decommissioning
  - Poseidon Huntington Beach Desalination Project
- Protective Structure Leases
  - Shoreline armoring
How do we track accountability?

- Create a dedicated EJ liaison position
- Regular updates to the Commission at public meetings
- Incorporate implementation into the Strategic Plan
- Invest in continuous EJ and social equity training for staff
- Annual review of staff reports to assess how many included an EJ analysis
- Host outreach sessions with EJ organizations & Tribal Nations to assess implementation
Contact Information

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